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# THE CANADIAN RAILROADER



THE INDEMNITY GRAB AND  
THE MURDOCK DISCLOSURES

A CHURCH FEDERATION'S STATEMENT OF  
PRINCIPLES IN INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

OFFICIAL ORGAN,  
FIFTH SUNDAY  
MEETING ASSOCIATION  
OF CANADA

MONTREAL, JULY 3rd, 1920

Vol. 2, No. 27

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# A Statement Of Principles Of The Massachusetts Federation Of Churches

By the Committee on Industrial Relations. Professor Henry K. Rowe, Chairman.

Adopted by the Executive Committee, April 6, 1920. Revised June 8, 1920.

The industrial situation has called out a number of statements of principle together with concrete recommendations from organized groups of churches. In these statements there is general agreement as to the need for new methods that shall more perfectly embody the spirit of justice and secure co-operation in industry. It is proper that the churches of Massachusetts should express themselves, for no state in the Union is more concerned with industrial questions. This state has led in legislation. It was the first to organize a State Bureau of Labor. It has provided machinery for conciliation and arbitration. It should be a pioneer in bringing about a better understanding between the parties to industry.

Upon no one organization does the responsibility rest so heavily as upon the churches to urge and inspire to this end those associated in the industries of the Commonwealth. Ninety-three per cent. of the Protestant churches are allied in the Massachusetts Federation of Churches. It has seemed advisable, therefore, to the Executive Committee of the Federation, after consultation with the Committee on Industrial Relations, to suggest a constructive programme, first for the improvement of industrial relations, and second for the guidance of the churches. The Committee has no panacea to propose, but it believes that there are basic principles for industry; that there are ways and means that have been proposed or can be devised which should be given a fair trial; and that there is possible a new spirit in industry that can transform it from a burden and a problem to a far greater contribution to human welfare than in the past.

## 1. Principles that underlie permanent industrial reconstruction.

1. There are certain principles basic in all human relations that apply to industrial relations. Among these are: Fair dealing, and mutual consideration; willingness to keep the peace, and to co-operate for the protection and furtherance of the general welfare; and sacrifice of personal independence, when necessary, for the welfare of other individuals, and for the sake of the whole community.

2. In addition to the general principles upon which association rests there are specific principles for industry. These need special attention because they have not been universally admitted.

(1) Industry is to be thought of as primarily for the service of society, and only secondarily as a means of personal or corporate gain.

(2) The several parties in industry have certain inalienable rights, and these rights imply corresponding obligations.

(3) Rights of persons take precedence of rights of property.

(4) Industry should be so conducted as to introduce all the possible elements of satisfaction in creative effort; reduce to a minimum fatigue and monotony; and adopt a working day and week that will not overtax the vital forces of the workers, and that will offer opportunity for such leisure as is necessary both for the worker's efficiency and for the happiness of himself and his family.

(5) Society has a rightful claim upon the individual in industry to give the best that is in him. This principle calls for provision for vocational training, both before and during the industrial process, and a right use of leisure, not merely for enjoyment, but also for health, education, religion, and the claims of the home life.

(6) Industry is a partnership, and all parties to production should participate in the direction of industry, in proportion to training, ability and interests.

(7) A fair wage should be the first charge on industry. A fair wage is not synonymous with a minimum wage, but should be interpreted to mean enough for support in reasonable comfort, for emergencies and old age, and a share in a continually improving standard of living.

(8) Capital is entitled to a fair return, and for depreciation on risk and investment; and management is entitled to a return commensurate with skilled intelligence.

(9) The primary needs of the public have first claim over the interests of any one class, and it is incumbent upon the other parties in industry to devise means for the peaceful settlement of all industrial disputes.

(10) Finally, the workers should not be deprived of the following charter of liberties:

a. Every human being has a right to an opportunity for self-maintenance, and to safeguard against unemployment, overwork, accident, and disease.

b. Every worker has a right to leisure and an opportunity for self-improvement.

c. Workers have the right, long enjoyed by employers, to organize freely, and to bargain collectively through representatives of their own choosing.

d. Workers have a right to a voice in determining the conditions of their labor, including wages, hours, and shop regulations.

## II. Mutual Obligations.

*We urge upon employers* the cultivation of the spirit of conciliation, of cordial good will and co-operation with their employees.

*We urge further* that employers take the workers into their confidence, and invite their counsel and co-operation, as the surest means of removing prejudice, suspicion, and hostility.

*We urge* that employers recognize freely the right of the workers to organize, and accept the principle of

collective bargaining, encouraging regular conferences between themselves and their employees, during times of peace as well as discussions in times of strained relations; as these means can avoid the necessity of arbitration, a device which is less satisfactory, because a third party determines what should be self-determined by the parties immediately concerned on the basis of their mutual interests.

*We urge employers* to provide healthful and agreeable conditions of labor, to adopt a reasonable schedule of hours and the principle of a fair wage, and to seek always to be of service to their employees; but not to content themselves with welfare work, profit sharing, and similar paternalistic measures, however good their purpose, as these do not go to the roots of the industrial problem; and to give to the worker a rightful share in the products of his toil.

*We urge, finally,* that employers adopt a co-operative method of management in the department of operation, and accept the responsibility of aiding their employees, especially in the case of foreign-speaking peoples with their ignorance of the English language and of American ways, to fit themselves for participation in such co-operation.

*We urge upon the workers* to meet half-way the honest efforts of the employers who are disposed to be friendly, and remind them that there is no necessary enmity between Capital and Labor.

*We urge upon the workers* to co-operate heartily for increased production, to realize the fallacy of the argument that shorter hours necessarily mean more work for everybody, and to take a real interest in improved methods and machinery for increasing the contribution that the producer can make to the consuming public.

*We urge the workers* to consider that it is a privilege to co-operate in the world's work under the proper conditions; that leisure is not the highest objective; and that it should be used for wholesome recreation, education, and the development of personality, rather than to satisfy the idle whim of an hour.

*We urge upon the public* to make provision for the free discussion of industrial matters, by means of open forums in churches, on the public platform, and in social centres; to encourage discussions of both sides in labor unions and in employers' associations; and to demand fair treatment of all parties, and free and unprejudiced discussions in the public press.

*We urge upon all parties* that they avoid the attitude of arrogance that is sometimes assumed towards others, and show themselves always law-abiding, loyal to the American principles and to the demands of moral obligation.

*We urge* that they welcome the opportunity for experimentation and demonstration of proposed plans of reconstruction, accepting none as being perfect methods of adjustment, but as offering a working basis for better understanding and co-operation.

III. *The Obligation of the Churches.*  
The churches represent a gospel that

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is surcharged with the spirit of harmony and good will. However much they have failed to measure up to the standards of the gospel with which they have been entrusted, they are the recognized custodians of a religion whose ideals have never been surpassed and whose dynamic power is powerful to transform human nature.

It is the obligation of the churches to take seriously the teaching of Jesus as it applies to present conditions in industry, to interpret the teaching in plain terms of every-day life, and to teach the responsibility of every individual and every class to act justly and to live rightly in this industrial age.

It is the obligation of the churches, through their social service commissions, to investigate phases of social and civic life, to test individual standards and judge situations by Christian principles, and to discover the most efficient ways and means of bringing Christian influence to bear upon the parties in industry.

It is the obligation of the churches to inspire the consciences of individuals and groups so that they shall endeavor to realize ideals; to create faith in conscientious achievement; and to insist upon a better social order.

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## Interdependence of Great Groups

(By GEORGE PIERCE)

THIS is a day of general shortage. All investigators seem to agree that the demand is far in excess of the supply. It is true that there has been and is profiteering. Avaricious men are always prone to take advantage of the necessities of their fellow men, yet the real and basic cause for the unusually high prices is due to an acute shortage. The prime reasons are not difficult to understand.

To begin with, twenty million producers were either badly maimed or killed in the war. They have left behind on an average consuming families of five or more members. When we couple this appalling loss with the great dislocation which attended the conversion of manufacturing plants to the business of war, when we attempt to sum up the unbelievable destruction, and add to all the frightful scourges of pestilence and famine arising out of the conflict, scourges which claimed as many victims as the war itself, then we can easily comprehend the great paucity in the things that humanity needs in order to live.

Apart from the multitude of interesting phases riveting the attention of students, this unusual condition of affairs has thrown into strong relief the undeniable facts of the interdependence of the great groups upon each other. We of the city are becoming intensely interested in agriculture. All city dwellers are conscious of a great food shortage. We realize our great dependence upon the farmer. We hope for favorable weather conditions to assist his crops, public opinion sanctions legislation to encourage the farmer. We begin to realize the great injustices visited upon him as a class in the days that have gone by. Generally, we have come to the conclusion that past practices of victimizing the farmer on every occasion is a short-sighted policy. The working class in particular have realized very close connection with the farmer through the great food shortage. Labor is today supporting all legislation which will come as a first aid to the agricultural community.

The same may be said for the manufacturer. In trading with the agriculturalist, the manufacturer is content to trade on a reasonable basis of profit. He knows very well that his workmen need to be fed and that the food must come from the farms. He has also learned that it is far better to increase the agricultural activities of the farmers by the progressive policy of fair trading than to base his operations on a single trade at such exorbitant prices as to stunt the growth and development of the farmer activity. The tendency, therefore, is generally to recognize the errors of the past and to co-operate in the greatest degree possible with the farmer.

No one denies the hardships and wrongs that the farmers have suffered, yet, if the farmer spirit should be one of retaliation and not one of conciliation and consideration for the other groups, little good would come from the salutary spirit which is growing so rapidly in the cities. The farmers have never had a better opportunity to effectually demonstrate their consideration and good will towards the working classes of the city who are, after all, the chief consumers of their products, than by recognizing and endorsing an advisory Tariff Board which has been so strongly endorsed and fought for by the ranks of labor throughout the Dominion. On its face, it is an unselfish propaganda which will bring the same benefits to the farmer as to the trade unionist.

A permanent Tariff Board would prevent great suffering among the workers and would afford the farmer the best possible protection against predatory interests. To the manufacturer ready to trade on a reasonable and just basis, it would bring great stability and prosperity. It is a measure for the general good of all the people. No progressive group may oppose it or remain silent without running the risk of being charged with self-interest. It is the first great opportunity that the farmer has had, and we should at least have an explanation why the farmer groups do not

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support it. The Tariff Board has been proven a great success in the United States where the farmers were its chief supporters. It is very difficult for us to realize that up to this time the farmers of Canada have refrained from endorsing the Tariff Board. We ardently hope that in the near future the agricultural council will bring its progressive spirit to bear at Ottawa for the appointment of the much needed permanent Tariff Board. If such a position were taken by an agricultural interest, it would be the first step toward a better and more enlightened understanding between the two great groups known as the labor and the farmer groups.

If the way can be paved for intelligent co-operation between the worker, the farmer and the manufacturer, the happiness of our people in their contentment and prosperity will resound from ocean to ocean.

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## The Department Of Municipal Affairs Of The Province Of Quebec

The Government of our cities and towns is the most important problem we are called upon to solve in the interest of efficient democracy. It can only be solved through a general appreciation of this fact by our municipal councils and through thoughtful, organized, co-operative effort.

It is to contribute to such a "thoughtful, organized co-operative effort" towards a better municipal administration, that the Government of the Province of Quebec created the new Department of Municipal Affairs.

The prosperity of the country depends, in a large measure, upon the good administration of municipal affairs and, in order to promote efficiency, the Government decided to adopt new and modern methods by the creation of the department.

It was realized that in the creation of such a department, there was one danger that had to be avoided, Municipal autonomy had to be scrupulously respected. It was felt that nothing in the new law must be allowed to encroach on the rights of the people to govern themselves. Therefore the new department cannot, in any manner or form, interfere with the administration of the municipal councils.

The officers of the department being permanent will acquire vast experience which will be placed at the service of the local administrators. These officers enter the municipal sphere in a friendly manner, not to take any power whatever from the 1300 municipalities of the Province, but to aid them with their advice, to urge them to follow the provisions of the law, to repress abuses and to correct errors which might be committed.

That is the sole object of the department, the role of which goes no further.

The department was created by the Quebec Act 8 George V, chapter 20, sanctioned February 9th, 1918, and was put into operation by proclamation on the 4th of March 1918.

The Honorable Walter G. Mitchell, Provincial Treasurer, was called upon to assume the direction by Order in council enacted March 8th, 1918.

A Deputy Minister was appointed on the 4th April of the same year.

The Acts 8 George V, chapters 20, 28 and 60 (1918) have brought about important changes in the municipal law of the Province of Quebec.

Amongst the most important in-

novations are the following:

1.—The law gives a government control over the sinking funds destined to meet the loans contracted by the municipalities.

This new departure has given to people seeking bond investments increased confidence in the Bonds of the municipalities of the Province of Quebec, and insures the setting aside for the due date of bond issues, the ready money to meet the obligations of each municipality.

The sinking fund for each loan is deposited with the Provincial Treasurer, unless otherwise ordained by the Lieutenant-Governor in Council.

This is allowed if the security is good such as provided under article 9810 of the civil code which requires that money held in trust be invested as follows:

(a) In Dominion of Provincial stock;

(b) In public securities of the United Kingdom or of the United States of America;

(c) In municipal stock or debentures;

(d) In the bonds or debentures of any school corporation in any city or town of the Province;

(e) In real estate in this Province;

(f) On first mortgage upon real estate in this Province to an amount not exceeding three fifths of the municipal valuation of such real estate.

This new departure was, and is still, viewed with much favor and very favorably commented upon, upon all sides.

It is realized and admitted that the sinking fund must be carefully looked after, for it is the tax payers' saving account for the payment of outstanding bonds. It is, moreover, the bond holders' primal security for his bonds. The real trusteeship, therefore, of the Government is for the tax payers and for the bond holders. In commercial practice, this is very clearly recognized and defined.

2.—The new law fixes a minimum term for debts incurred by municipalities for certain purposes.

It was considered by the Legislature that it is only equitable that municipal loans be paid during the life of the work and by the generations which profit by it.

3.—Another important change is the mode of procedure regarding the voting of loan by-laws.

The old law provided that it was not necessary that the electors should be called upon to register their vote upon a loan by-law, unless a poll was asked for by six electors. If a poll is not asked for the by-law was presumed unanimously approved of the electors.

(To be continued next week.)

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## Sid Goldstein's Ad Puts A Crimp In Silk Shirt Silliness

(Locomotive Engineers' Journal).

Sid Goldstein, a merchant of Gladstone, Mich., recently printed this unique advertisement:

"I am a small merchant in a small town. A good share of my customers are railroad men. In 1913 a switchman came into my store and brought in \$3.50, his wages for an eight hour day. 'Give me a suit of overalls, Sid,' the switchman said. I took his day's wages and gave him back \$1.70 in change. Overalls \$1.80 the suit.

"To-day he is robbing the public—he gets \$5 for eight hours' work. He comes in today and he buys overalls from me this way: 'Here is my day's wages, Sid, gimme a suit of overalls.' I take his day's wages and tell him that overalls have gone up. He counters with the fact that 'he should worry, he is getting more money.' So I give him his suit of overalls and tell him that they have jumped from \$1.80 a suit in 1913, to \$6 a suit now.

"I tell him to go back and work over an hour and a half more the next day and bring me that dollar, and we will be square with one another. His wages were raised about 40 per cent, and his overalls 230 per

band works almost two days more, then bring me his three days' wages and I will give her the 35 yards and \$1 in change!

"Somebody let him work one day in 1913 for 35 yards. Now somebody lets him work almost three days for that 35 yards. And he is out working the extra two days in weather that is 16 below zero for that cotton. Weather that you would not have your pet cat out doors for that over an hour! And he and his fellow workers are the poor pimps that are robbing the public.

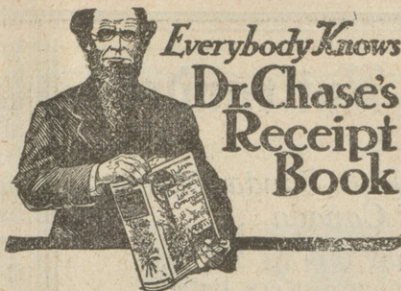
"If he is a conductor, fireman, engineer or brakeman, it is just the same. He gets more money, it is true, but the same percentages hold good. Why? Because every dollar that that class earns has to be earned away from home—on the road—and it costs \$3 extra per day to live on the road. And don't you think for a minute he has a room 'with a bawth.'

"I am the fellow that has to buy for them. How am I going to buy for them whe nthey are not making enough money to afford the goods that I have for sale? I must have at least 7 per cent net profit. I am and somebody took 230 cents from him. And he is the robber you hear so much about!

"His wife brought 35 yards of 10-cent muslin in 1913, for her husband's day's wages. When she comes in my store today with the wonderful increase in pay to get the 35 yards of cotton, I tell her to go back home and wait until her husband. Somebody gave him 40 cents entitled to 10 per cent). Those overalls cost me \$2.75 when I figure my net profit and cost of doing business—and I am selling to him for \$6.00.

"I read an awful lot of guff about the common laborer going into the store and buying a half dozen shirts of pure silk, in a nonchalant manner, just a wave of the hand and a 'Gimme them six at \$18 each.' The railroad man in this town of Gladstone, Mich., would wave his hand a heluva long time before he'd get any silk shirts in this store in half dozen lots. I'm too busy trying to sell him the old 50-cent shirts at \$1.90—and he is too busy trying to get enough money to buy them to try any of this hand-waving stuff that I read so much about.

"And if you think that I am picking on overalls and sheeting alone, just try me. I'll tell you about shoes, gloves, silks, gingham—any old thing you want to know in my line of dry goods, clothing and shoes."—"Atchison Globe."



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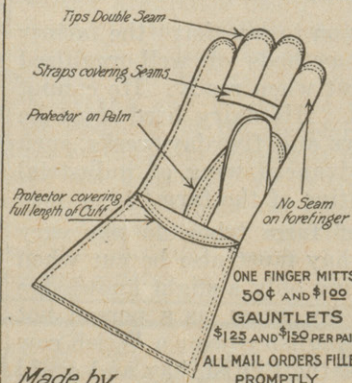
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## No Jurisdiction Held At Ottawa

Washington Labor Convention Will be Referred to Provinces.

The main international labor conventions, to which Dominion Government representatives gave assent at Washington in November last, are to be referred for action to the nine provincial Governments. Decision to follow this course has been reached following a ruling by the Department of Justice. Principal among the conventions to be referred are:

The eight-hour day; the children's charter (limiting the age of employment of children in industrial establishment to 14 years); prohibition of the employment of persons under 18 years of age and of women in industrial establishments during the night.

Assent to the international conventions had aroused constitutional problems. Early in the session the Minister of Justice stated in the House that in his opinion the Dominion Parliament was without authority to enact the eight-hour day, for instance, if considered as a purely Canadian question. The point arose whether, in assenting to the treaty of Versailles and subsequently to the conventions, the Dominion had not assumed such an international obligation as, under the British North America Act, would give the Dominion Parliament authority to enact an eight-hour day. The opinion of the Department of Justice has not been made public, but the tenor of it, it is understood, is that while Canada recognized the principle of the eight-hour day as laid down in the labor section of the treaty of Versailles, there was no obligation imposed to submit the convention to the Dominion Parliament for ratification. Under the circumstances it is held that the Dominion Parliament does not have the necessary jurisdiction, and the conventions are being therefore referred to the provincial Governments for such action as they may deem proper.

There has been suggestion of an inter-provincial conference for discussion of the situation, but such a course is not now considered necessary.

Peace rules the day where reason rules the mind.—Collins.

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## Another "Menace" Bogey

"IT must be obvious to any thinking person", says the *Farm and Ranch Review*, of Calgary, "that the day farm labor is unionized in Western Canada, the whole country will be confronted with a menace the enormity of which can hardly be estimated".

It is not obvious to me, but whether that puts me in the class of unthinking persons is something to debate about; at anyrate, I do not have to accept the *Farm and Ranch Review's* say-so in the matter.

Farm labor is largely unionized in Great Britain, and nobody thinks it a menace except some old-fashioned farmers of Prussian proclivities; the hundreds of thousands of farm laborers, on the other hand, if they were compelled to go back to the old conditions, would think that was a menace the enormity of which could hardly be estimated.

The *Farm and Ranch Review* goes on to say that "the farmer is peculiarly powerless to meet the methods of well-organized unions. His grain and hay must be cut when ready. He cannot await the result of strike conferences. His dairy herd must be milked at certain hours. Six-hour days and five-day weeks, such as is persistently advocated by the advanced wing of industrial labor, will not fit into the life and routine of the farm".

Probably the broad conditions of farm labor do not vary much anywhere. Scottish grain and hay must also be cut when ready, I presume, though I admit having only a slight knowledge of the hay and grain business. It is my guess, as a person not closely acquainted with cows, that an English cow or a Welsh cow has to be milked at certain hours. Yet the British hay and grain cutters and cow milkers are unionized.

Six-hour days and five-day weeks have not been asked by

unionized farm labor, though unionized farm labor has objected to eighteen-hour days and seven-day weeks. Farm laborers have intelligence enough to ask only what may reasonably be expected under the conditions of their occupation, and what they are reasonably entitled to by way of social justice. They unionized in Great Britain because decades of other forms of protest against starvation wages and hideous working and living conditions were not listened to by the employer. I wonder if the editors of the *Farm and Ranch Review* ever read what old man Hodges wrote and spoke of his more than half-century struggle, through organization, to lift the heel of the oppressor from the face of the English farm laborer. He was a ploughman himself and although he became an M.P. he died about as poor as he was born. "The iron entered into my soul when I was very young", he said once, "and it never came out". When there is a meeting of organized English farm laborers and old man Hodges' name is mentioned, as it often is, these humble laborers take off their caps and bow their heads in tribute to his memory. There are two views of the menace, and I prefer the view of the laborer.

If the unjust employer, farmer or anyone else, is peculiarly powerless to meet the methods of well-organized unions, so much the better. There will be fewer strikes and more speedy justice. No just employer, understanding unions, ever had to fear unions.

The *Farm and Ranch Review* says further:—"Let Industrial Canada wallow in the slimy mess of 'capital versus labor', but let us all devoutly pray that the day is far distant when the farmer will be called upon to bow to the dictation of labor unions in the conduct of his daily work. Political alliance with Labor is all right, just so long as Labor does not attempt to impose its views on the farmers of Canada. When that time comes their ways must part radically. They dwell in opposite camps and have few interests in common".

Why should the farmer care about political alliance with one of the parties to the slimy mess — on the principle that the slimy means are justified by the selfish end? And if the farmer insists that Labor must not impose its views on him — that is, in an intimate sense, his hired help must have no views in the matter of their own means of livelihood — will he in turn cease imposing his views on Labor generally and on his hired help in particular?

If the *Farm and Ranch Review* wants to do any devout praying, let it do some for a little more humanity in the world, and remember that devout praying done to the accompaniment of slinging a handful of poisoned mash is not worth an old tin can.

K. C.

## Confidence--Silence

MR. JAMES MURDOCK, Labor representative on the Board of Commerce, which was supposed to investigate manufacturing costs with a view to eliminating unfair profits and in other ways helping to reduce the cost of living, has resigned, and in resigning has launched one of the boldest and most searching attacks ever made on the government and on the chairman of the Board of Commerce, Judge Robson. His letter of resignation and Judge Robson's reply are given on another page, from the *Gazette*. There are two features of the thing which stand out prominently, and all the hard slamming that the *Gazette* has been trying to lay on Mr. Murdock in the last few days does not in the least offset them. One of these features is that Mr. Murdock, at least, has no axe to grind except that of the common people, and that he is a man in whom thousands of Canadian trade unionists have implicit confidence as a fighter for their rights, and the rights of other common people, the people who pay the high cost of living and suffer for it. The other is that since Mr. Murdock's attack was made, not a word of defence or excuse has come from the Government side of the House of Commons, and not a word of criticism or effort to obtain the facts has come from the Opposition. There has been a monumental silence — and the people of Canada are doing some hard thinking for themselves these days.

K. C.



## Censorship Censoring

**M**R. ROUSSY DE SALLES was last week appointed chairman of the Province of Quebec Board of Censors of motion pictures in place of Sheriff Lemieux of Montreal. If Sheriff Lemieux had no special qualifications as a film censor, at least he was a fairly well-known man of broad view and good record.

According to the *Gazette*, Mr. Roussy de Salles is not even a Quebecer, but somebody who blew into Montreal some months ago from Alberta, where he had lived for ten years or more, and who is a French marquis, which latter fact is not of itself any particular recommendation. Who he is, what his background is, why he got the job, is not explained, and it should be.

The censorship of motion pictures was not established by the Quebec Government, or should not have been established, to provide jobs for job-seekers and patronage for politicians. It was hoped that it would tend to raise the standards of the pictures which form the main amusement, and one of the main inspirations, of the whole population, by discouraging the exhibition of pictures liable to exert wrong influences on the minds, especially the minds of young people. Whatever the censorship has already prevented in the way of wrong influences, it has not prevented enough, as some of the pictures still shown in the picture houses and bearing the official O. K. of the Board of Censors, should never have received such an O. K. The shocking serial pictures come to mind in the connection. Only men and women—there is no woman on the Board, but one would improve it—with established records of effort for public welfare, have any right to be on such a board; they must be persons in whom the public can have confidence, or the board is worse than useless, defeats the fundamental reason for its existence.

It is only fair and proper that the people of this Province should know who Mr. Roussy de Salles is, and why he has been appointed chairman of the board. The appointment may be an excellent one, but the citizens want to judge for themselves. Let us have the cover taken off the mystery.

K. C.

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### LABOR DEMONSTRATES FITNESS TO GOVERN

Queensland has had a Labor Government since May, 1915.

"Is labor fit to govern?" This question was put recently to Mr. Edward Granville Theodore, the labor Premier of Queensland.

"The Labor Party", Mr. Theodore replied, "has governed Queensland since May, 1915. It has had to manage the affairs of that state during the most critical and strenuous period of its history, during dislocations caused by the war and drought, and by the consequent financial disturbances. Labor, however, has demonstrated that it was well able, even in these circumstances, of administering the affairs of the state as any other political party. No impartial observer in Australia would say that the Government of Queensland is not carried on as efficiently under the labor regime, as under any previous Conservative administration.

"To a large extent we have solved the problem of labor unrest in Queensland by restricting and limiting profiteering on the one hand, and establishing a modern system of industrial arbitration on the other.

"The Labor Party stands for the

nationalization of the principal public services, and the public utilities of the state. Railways are nationalized, and the policy is being carried into other activities and industries. The Government has decided to establish extensive iron and steel works. The Labor Government fully recognizes that such technical and complex businesses as iron and steel manufacture, railways, coal, mining, and metallurgical works, can only be successfully managed if competent business men and experts are in charge, but I consider that a Labor Government has at least as good an opportunity of securing the services of such experts as company directors have.

"The secret of the success of the Queensland Arbitration Court," he continued, "is the mobility of its machinery in so large an area as Queensland, and the facility with which disputes may be referred to it, the simplicity of the procedure, and the expedition in arriving at its awards and decisions. Ninety-five per cent. of the callings and industries in Queensland are operating under the arbitration awards which are giving satisfaction."

### LABOR'S INTEREST IN CREDIT POWER.

The New Age (London).

The executive of the Scottish council of the Labor party have passed the following resolution and circulated it among their local branches:

"This executive, believing that the question of high prices, including rent, goes to the root of the economic problem, urges the Scottish Labor movement to concentrate upon it. We consider that, whilst prices are largely swollen as a consequence of commercial cornering and profiteering in essential commodities, the root cause of high prices is to be found in the operations of the financier, who, besides fleecing the public commercially, dictates the policy of the government as regards loans, issue of paper money, taxation and foreign relations.

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## OUR LONDON LETTER

### British Farm Workers To Get \$11.50 a Week, But May Not Accept

(From our Own Correspondent)

London, June 4th.

This has been an important week industrially.

The tramway dispute, which threatened to give us a national strike, has been more or less settled. London men are to have an advance of \$2.25 a week, and provincial district men will get sums ranging from \$1.75 to \$2.25. The original demand was for \$2.50. Settlement separate — if the men accept the proposed terms — from March 29th and the London bus workers are sure to obtain a \$2.25 advance. They wanted \$2.50 and were ready to strike for it.

The National Agricultural Wages Board has decided to increase the minimum of farms workers to \$11.50 per week. There was a minority of one, who voted against the figure on the ground that it was not high enough.

The present minimum is \$10.50 but this figure has been exceeded in various areas by decisions of the Na-

tion and District Boards. All these rates will be proportionately increased.

The members of the Workers' Union and the numbers of the Agricultural Workers' Union have demanded a minimum of \$12.50 (in some cases \$15). In Essex at the present the members of the Workers' Union are balloting on a strike to enforce the \$12.50 for farm workers. We are by no means certain yet that a national stoppage will be averted.

What threatens to be one of our most serious disputes of recent months is in connection with the great Sheffield steel works. Six unions were recently concerned in a dispute with the employers, but, of these, five arranged terms. The Enginemen and Firemen's Union in which are the boiler firemen, however, decided to call out their members, and the electricians now threaten to declare a sympathetic strike.

Mr. A. W. Matthews, the district

secretary of the Electricians' Union, declared that they were perfectly capable of stopping the entire industry of the area.

"I do not care a rap or voluntary workers", he added, "and they can bring out the Guards if they choose."

A singular feature of the crisis is that the five unions which previously came to terms issued a manifesto repudiating the action of the enginemen and firemen.

Already some 25,000 workers are unemployed through the dispute, and I quite expect that, unless a settlement is speedily reached, the whole of the Sheffield steel trade will be at a standstill. The point of disagreement is whether the men shall, as the employers propose, work three eight-hour shifts or, as they have been doing, two shifts and overtime.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union has put in application to the Industrial Court for an advance of 12c. per hour on all existing rates for its 460,000 members.

The Amalgamated Engineering Union is one of the parties to the agreement with the National Federation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Employers that an application for a reduction of hours to 44 per week should not be pressed until after a joint committee had reported on the economic relation of production to hours of work, and the proposal to cancel this agreement has been made without consulting the A. E. U.

There was always a minority of about one third of the members of the Federation of Shipbuilding and Engineering trade unions against the delay in the agitation or the 44 hours.

But it would not be correct to say that no progress has been made. True, the crux of the enquiry, the investigation of conditions in Europe and America, has not yet been begun, but the joint committee has met four or five times, and investigation has been proceeding all the time. That, however, does not appease, and at the annual conference a resolution was carried to call a special conference.

The ostensible reason, however, will be probably overshadowed, and the conference resolve itself into a wage demand in which the Amalgamated Engineering Union has led the way. If that be so, and the federation also applies for 6s. per cent. advance for its million members, the same as the A.E.U., the total sum involved reckoning 50 weeks to the year, will be close on \$450,000,000.

A big step forward in the formation of a standard national scale of wages and conditions in the building trades has been made at a meeting of the National Wages and Conditions Committee, held at the Ministry of Labor.

This Committee consists of 20 national representatives of the employers, and 20 national representatives of the building trade unions.

It met to receive the report of



a sub-committee appointed to draw up a uniform scale of wages, overtime, and night work pay, allowances for travelling time, lodgings, etc. and also the grading of towns.

The sub-committee presented their report which, after amendment, was ordered to be remitted to the constituent organizations, the representatives thereof to report to an adjourned meeting of the National Committee two months hence.

The details of this scheme cannot be divulged at present, but it may be taken as an indication of its quality that the representatives of the men are very well pleased.

The Labor Delegation which has been conducting an inquiry into the political conditions in Hungary, with special reference to the allegations concerning the White Terror, has returned to England.

It is understood that the delegation, which was composed of Colonel Wedgewood, D.S.C., M.P., Messrs. Stuart Bunning, F. W. Jowett, W. Harris and J. B. Williams, is now engaged in the preparation of its report to the Parliamentary Committee of the Trades Union Congress and the National Executive of the Labor Party, and it is unlikely that the report will be ready for several days.

Ethelbert Pogson.

:o:

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## WAR

War is a science of destruction.—John S. C. Abbott.

War is a crime which involves all other crimes.—Brougham.

The law is silent during war.—Cicero.

If Christian nations were nations of Christians there would be no wars.—Soame Jenyns.

Battles are never the end of war; for the dead must be buried and the cost of the conflict must be paid.—James A. Garfield.

The measure of civilization in a people is to be found in its just appreciation of the gronfulness of war.—Helps.

War suspends the rules of moral obligations, and what is long suspended is in danger of being totally abrogated.—Burke.

War is one of the greatest plagues that can afflict humanity: it destroys states, it destroys families. Any scourge, in fact, is preferable to it.—Martin Luther.

Every war involves a greater or less relapse into barbarism. War, indeed, in its details, is the essence of inhumanity. It dehumanies. It may save the state but it destroys the citizen.—Bovee.

I hate that drum's discordant sound  
To me it talks of ravaged plains,  
And burning towns, and ruined swains,  
And mangled limbs, and dying groans,  
And widows' tears, and orphans' moans  
And all that misery's hand bestows  
To fill the catalogue of human woes.

—John Scott.

Carry his body hence!  
Kings must have slaves;  
Kings climb to eminence  
Over men's graves;  
S othis man's eye is dim:  
Throw the earth over him!  
—Austin Dobson.

I abominate war as unchristian. I hold it the greatest of human crimes. I deem it to involve all others—violence, blood, rapine, fraud; everything that can deform the character, alter the nature, and debase the name of man.—Brougham.

War in men's eyes shall be  
A monster of iniquity  
In the good time coming  
Nations shall not quarrel then,  
To prove which is the stronger;  
Nor slaughter men for glory's sake.  
—Charles Mackay.

Of all the evils to public liberty war is perhaps the most to be dreaded, because it comprises and develops the genius of every dollar. War is the parent of armies; from these proceed debt and taxes.—Madison.

The mad wickedness of war.—Virgil.

War — the trade of barbarisms.—Napoleon.

The poor souls for whom this hungry war opens is vast jaws.—Shakespeare.

War begun, hell to loose.—Italian Proverb.

War is a game which, were their subjects wise, kings should not play at.—Cowper.

Misery and ruin to thousands are in the blast that announces the destructive demon (war).—Burns.

:o:

## PEACE

They shall beat their swords into ploughshares, and their spears into pruning books; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.—Isaiah.

A Peace is of the nature of a conquest;  
For then both parties nobly are subdued,  
And neither party loser.

—Shakespeare.

ut the real and lasting victories are those of peace, and not of war.—Emerson.

Peace and friendship with all mankind is our wisest policy, and I wish me may be permitted to pursue it.—Thomas Jefferson.

Peace! and no longer from its brazen portals

The blast of War's great organ shakes the skies!  
But beautiful as songs of the immortals,

The holy melodies of love arise.  
—Longfellow.

There never was a good war or a bad piece.—Benjamin Franklin.

Peace is the fairest form of happiness.—Channing.

Peace is the happy natural state of man; war his corruption, his disgrace.—Thomson.

Blessedness is promised to the peacemaker, not to the conqueror.—Quarles.

Peace with a cudgel in hand is war.—Portuguese Proverb.

Peace is the masterpiece of reason.—Müller.

Peace is the first duty of a citizen.—Count Schulenburg-Kenhert.

Peace gives the food to the husbandman, even in the midst of rocks; war brings misery to him even in the most fertile plains.—Menander.

T time will come when the science of destruction shall bend before the arts of peace; when the genius which multiplies the powers, which creates new products, which diffuses comfort and happiness among the great mass of the people, shall occupy in the general estimation of mankind that rank with reason and common-sense now assign to it.—Arago.

Oh! first of human blessings! and supreme,  
Fair peace! how lovely, how delightful thou!

By whose wide tie, the kindred songs of men  
Live brothers like, in amity combined  
And unsuspicious faith.

—Thomson.

O Peace! thou source and sould of social life;  
Beneath whose calm inspiring influence,  
Science his views enlarges, Art refines,  
And swelling Commerce opens all her ports;  
Blessed the man divine, who gives us thee!

—Thomson.

Earth a last a warless world, a single race, a single tongue—  
I have seen her far away—for is not Earth as yet so young?  
Robed in universal harvest up to either pole she smiles,  
Universal ocean softly washing all her warless Isles.

—Tennyson.

I hope it (peace) will come soon to stay; and so come as to be worth the keeping in all future time.—Abraham Lincoln.

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## Americans Had Better Get Used To High Prices

(By AARON HARDY ULM, in the  
Dearborn Independent (Henry  
Ford's weekly).)

"PRICES are not going back to the pre-war level for at least four or five years unless they are shaken down by a financial and industrial smash up. I doubt if prices can ever go back safely to the 1913 and 1914 levels. Don't forget that prices bear very little relation to the cost of living. Cost of living is often highest when prices are lowest."

The speaker was a man who for nearly eight years has devoted his time and his talents to keeping tab on skyrocketing prices and their effect on living conditions. He is Dr. Royal Meeker, Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, United States Department of Labor. A trained economist who rose from the ranks of manual labor, Dr. Meeker has brought to his job an intimate experience with working conditions, as well as wide education and training received in universities of this country and Europe. Prior to becoming a government official he was assistant professor of political economy at Princeton.

It is probable that no such thorough social and economic studies as those directed by Dr. Meeker during recent years were ever before made anywhere. The pay rolls of numerous industries, specially those known as basic, have been subjected to minute scrutiny by his force of statisticians. Thousands of workmen's families in veritably every industry and occupation throughout the country have furnished him with data on earnings and expenditures at different times.

The information thus procured has been made available to workmen and employers and has been used frequently in adjusting wage disputes.

"High cost of living is nothing new," Dr. Meeker went on to say. "It was complained of in the days of Charlemagne when you could buy an ox for less than the present price of a sirloin steak. We probably pay twenty times as much for the necessities of life as men paid in the thirteenth century, but the cost of living is no higher now than it was then, and we undoubtedly live much more comfortably, completely and healthfully. In India and China, long the countries of lowest prices, the cost of living is so high as to put life itself beyond the purchasing power of tens of thousands of people.

"Hence you may say that the cost of living has practically nothing to do with prices. It is merely the common term used to express the relation between the price of labor (wages) and the price of foods, clothes, housing, fuel. The price level is of no consequence except to the historian and antiquarian. It is the changing of price levels which causes distress and concern to the economists and all who buy and sell things.

"The ideal arrangement, of course, would be one based on a stable system of unchanging prices, though no one has yet found a way for bringing about that ideal. Many systems have been suggested and some have been tried without great success; others with apparent merit have not been tried.

"Just as we make loose use of the term 'high cost of living' we over-employ that lately-made word 'profiteering.' No doubt there are profiteers in every community, though nobody

has taken the trouble to define the profiteer. But we have always had profiteers and perhaps shall always have them. They have been more abundant of late but that is the result rather than the cause of high prices. The profiteer should be halted, but if you put everyone of them in jail the effect on the high cost of living, and on prices, would be negligible.

"The phenomenal increase in prices during the last five years was due to four causes:

"1. Enormous additions to the circulating medium, money and its substitutes.

"2. Decrease in the actual physical quantities of goods produced and exchanged.

"3. Manufacture for and purchase by the government of the world for war and other purposes.

"4. Changes in the demands for and the supply of goods and services.

"If prices are to be lowered the causes that operate to boost prices must be attacked. The amount of money and checks in circulation must be appreciably reduced and the quantities of necessary goods must be increased in amount. The stocks of commodities manufactured on government

account must, as far as possible, be salvaged and thrown on the market. The extraordinary demand for goods new and old must be either curtailed or production of those goods expanded to meet needs. The prices we complained about in 1913 have come to be regarded as ideal. Untold distress has been caused by the rapid price increases since that year. But the sufferings already endured through rising prices will be multiplied tenfold if prices drop within the next seven years to the 1913 level, for a period of falling prices is always a time of business depression, failures and unemployment.

"With rising prices, people can always get work and thereby earn something. With rapidly falling prices, thousands will be unable to get work or earn anything.

"Hence if there is to be any big drop in price levels it should come gradually. I doubt if there should be any substantial drop in price levels; just now some decline is very desirable for the psychological effect.

"When you begin to beat down prices, you accentuate the danger of an industrial smash-up. One may doubt if such a smash-up would now



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greatly reduce the level of prices. Industry is so organized that it seems able to keep prices up in the face of severe financial panic. That was illustrated in the so-called Roosevelt panic of 1907. You will find from our index numbers that, though thousands were thrown out of work during that period of depression, there was very little decline in commodity prices. The same thing happened during the depressions in 1913 and 1914—money was tight, industry was sluggish, unemployment extensive, and yet prices underwent little decline.

"Fortunes that are the product of unusual conditions occasioned by war, instead of being employed to promote stability, are too often being dissipated uneconomically, thereby aggravating unhealthy conditions.

"There is a lot of loose talk about how workmen are arbitrarily holding back production and, by demanding excess tolls in the way of higher wages and shorter work days, contributing to the vicious circle.

"There we must differentiate as we must differentiate with regard to the high cost of living and prices, and profiteering and profit-taking.

"No doubt some workmen are holding back production by cutting output per hour employed, as compared with pre-war records. I know of two big industries where the man production per hour has declined materially, but I suspect that in each of them the impulse to do so comes from above as well as from below.

"But I know of some industries where it hasn't declined, of many individual cases where it has increased. That is a problem, my investigations show, which can be solved in large part by management. In plants where the management treats the men sympathetically and above all sees to it that the right kind of foremen supervise the workmen, production per hour holds up.

"That holding back on the part of workmen isn't a new phenomenon. It existed before the war and has existed since the gang system of handling workmen came into vogue and will continue as long as that system lasts. Whenever men are handled like machines, they are going to let the slowest one among them set the pace for the gang; whenever the foreman insists on exercising all the intelligence, the workman is going to take advantage of opportunities for lagging on the job.

"With the shortage of labor now existing, the man can carry his lagging further than formerly when somebody was usually ready to take his place.

"The question of wages and the cost of living has been reduced by us to index numbers that tell the facts. You may be surprised to learn that for industry as a whole wages have not kept up with prices since 1913, when the average workman was better off than he is now, as far as real income goes, that is, the goods his earnings will buy.

"The union wage scales certainly are not lower than the non-union. Yet the 1919 union wage scale for the bakery, building, stone, metal, millwork and printing trades, and also chauffeurs, teamsters, freight handlers,

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laundry workers, theatre hands and waiters showed an advance of only 55 per cent over that of 1913 and 72 per cent over that of 1907. During the period from 1913 to 1919, the cost of living increased nearly 80 per cent.

"The full-time hours pre week for trades mentioned fell 5 per cent as compared with 1918 and 8 per cent as compared with 1907. This brought the increase in earnings down to 48 per cent as compared with 1913, and 56 per cent as compared with 1907.

"The figures apply only to the union scales for day work, piecework and larger wages paid, by individual agreement, being omitted. The figures are applicable, however, to most workmen in those trades.

"It should be absurd to say that wage increases in all trades have trailed behind advances in living costs. In some cases, notably the iron and steel industry, wages advanced more than the cost of living. As compared with 1913, earnings per hour showed from 98 to 167 per cent increases in their iron and steel mills. The figures are based on data gathered from the larger mills where the wages are probably higher than in the smaller plants.

"The per hour earnings for 1919 in some other industries showed increases over those of 1913 as follows:

	Per cent.
Cotton goods .....	79
Hosiery and underwear .....	84
Silk goods .....	91
Men's clothing .....	71
Boots and shoes .....	47
Lumber and sawmills .....	94
Millwork and sash doors and blinds .....	51
Furniture .....	54
Cigars .....	52

"Now here are the figures on the increase in cost of living in several cities as compared with 1913, the figures being based on prices prevailing in December, 1919:

	Per cent.
Portland, Maine .....	91.59
Boston, Massachusetts .....	92.30
New York .....	103.81
Norfolk, Virginia .....	106.98
Savannah, Georgia .....	98.68
Mobile, Alabama .....	94.54
Houston, Texas .....	101.70
Chicago, Illinois .....	100.61
Detroit, Michigan .....	107.87
Cleveland, Ohio .....	95.05
Buffalo, New York .....	102.65

"So you see wages, on the whole, haven't gone up in proportion to the prices we have been paying for necessities, as the living costs are based on necessities. We are prone to judge the earnings of all workmen by those widely advertised one in specially fortunate trades or localities and who often are over-prosperous for limited periods only.

"The way toward readjustment of conditions, whereby the cost of living will be truly reduced for the body of the people, lies along the pathway of many reforms. Instead of railing so exclusively at the profiteer, we should get busy and reduce the number of profit-takers who have interposed themselves between the ultimate consumer and the ultimate producer. The amount of morally legitimate profit-taking by these middlemen, little and big, amounts to an enorm-



ous sum. Our whole system of commerce and industry is builded around 'service' instead of economy. It's how we get it, rather than the price, which chiefly concerns most of us. It is not the store, for example, that cuts service, and thereby profits, to the bone, that gets our trade generally but the one that grants the most favors—at big prices. Upper berths on Pullmans, though cheaper than lower ones, are scorned; a luxuriously equipped train is preferred to others that supply every creature need just as fully.

"The real cause of industrial unrest and unsatisfactory production is the lack of understanding and confidence between owners and management on the one hand and working forces on the other. These must be brought to operate sympathetically as partners in the enterprise of producing socially necessary goods.

"We cannot expect any radical reduction in living costs for a long time to come. A great and sudden lowering of prices would cause living costs actually to be increased by bringing about a state of industrial demoralization that, with all that may be said against existing conditions, would produce far more hardship and suffering than are due to present high prices."

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## Our OTTAWA LETTER

### THE INDEMNITY GRAB AND THE MURDOCK EXPOSURES

(From Our Own Correspondent)

TWO major events of the past week dwarf everything else, viz the Murdock disclosures and the great indemnity grab. A well-known journalist who used to visit Ottawa at intervals was wont to declare that he never saw the flag on the Houses of Parliament floating bravely in the breeze; it was always hanging limp and dejected and his theory was that it was drooping with shame at the deeds which were perpetrated beneath the shadow of its fold. Last week it had ample cause for shame for it is doubtful if since the day British Parliaments took shape at the hands of Simon de Montfort any of them has ever witnessed a more contemptible spectacle than man after man of the worst gang of mediocrities who ever sullied the floor of a legislative chamber rising in their places to demand increased indemnities and provide alarming evidence of the extent to which personal selfishness and lack of public spirit are still terrible barriers in Canada to decent politics.

It is possible that there may be some justification for an increased indemnity if it is to be regarded as a salary. But it is not. It is a recompense for spending a certain portion of the year, rarely more than four months, on the nation's business. The Premier stated that he was much impressed with the fact that American congressmen and senators are paid \$7,500. But the work of an American Congressman is much harder than the labor of a Canadian M.P. The Congressman represents on an average 250,000 people and our members not more than 40,000 on the average. If Nova Scotia sent representatives to Washington she would only send two and it would cost her \$15,000. To Ottawa she sends 16 and at the old rate they cost \$40,000, and henceforth will cost \$64,000.

The 96 American Senators each represent on an average over 1,000,000 and the work thrown on them is enormous. Our Nestors can detail twelve of their number for every million of our population. An American Senator or Congressman is so inundated with work and correspondence that he has absolutely no time to look after his personal affairs. In addition the sessions at Washington are invariably much longer.

In Great Britain members have

much more arduous work. On an average they represent 70,000 souls and Nova Scotia would have in the British House 8 members at the utmost. They would be paid less than \$2,000 each and the total bill for federal representation of that province would be about \$15,000 or less than a quarter of what the generous Sir Robert now proposes. Moreover British M.P.'s have to pay their own fares, while their accommodation and perquisites are very scanty. Yet there has not been a whisper at Westminster for increased remuneration; here it has been one prolonged howl since the day that the session opened.

Sir Robert also falls back on the recent increase in Australia but he either does not know or carefully omitted to mention the fact that the steal there was ferociously unpopular with the electorate. Members were openly hooted by the Melbourne crowds during processions in honor of the Prince and Mr. Hughes who was primarily responsible was greeted with shouts of "Grabber".

There is, therefore, no urgent case for an increased indemnity. It can be argued that a low indemnity keeps out of Parliament many poor honest and capable men but it also is a deterrent to many knaves and adventurers who might be attracted by \$4,000.

But the case against the grant of an increase lies on other grounds. Here is the country recovering from a gigantic effort, bereft of much valuable man power, laden with debt and facing heavy responsibilities in expenditure for pensions and other things. In the current year there is not the slightest prospect of our actual income meeting our expenditure; the huge deficit may be concealed from the public eye but it will exist. Ministers and patriot financiers have vied with one another in telling us that the easiest path to national recuperation lies in increased production and stern economy by all classes; it has been dinned into our ears *ad nauseam* and working men have been lectured to death on the evils of striking for higher wages and interfering with production at this critical time.

But here our precious members not only throw all thought of economy to the winds and demand salary increases which all told will cost the country

over half a million dollars per annum but they practically threaten to go on strike if their demands are not granted. It is obvious that a pistol was held at the head of the Cabinet and they were notified that votes would not be forthcoming unless indemnities were.

And what shall be said of our estimable Premier who on Thursday declares that the granting of increased indemnities at the present time is unwise and likely to be fraught with serious consequences and then on Friday tells a Coalition caucus that

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he will grant them? He has to face the humiliation of consenting to a project which he himself had publicly declared to be unwise. Here are his exact words spoken on June 24th:

"But on the other hand there is according to my mind a very grave and serious doubt whether it would be in the public interest, whether it would be in the interest of parliamentary institutions, whether it would be in the interest of honorary members themselves to press for such an indemnity at this session of Parliament."

He spoke also of the claims of the ex-servicemen and the cutting down of public appropriations and hinted at the popular odium which would fall upon an increase. He and his followers will live to be pained acutely by its volume. But there is striking evidence of a loss of capacity in the Premier's conduct; the Sir Robert Borden who was flouting the Imperialists at conferences in London in 1916 and thwarting the pet schemes of the Admiralty would never have

quailed before the onset of a deputation of Canadian M.P.'s whose avarice was only equalled by their ignorance.

Our Prime Minister's actions would justify the belief that he is bent on finally discrediting the Federal Parliament of Canada as an engine of democratic government. When the Ottawa Journal, the avowed organ of the government at the capital, asserts that the indemnity grab is immoral, the sin is something out of the ordinary. Not only is it immoral but it is also positively indecent for a Parliament to vote itself extra remuneration while it is sitting. It would have been the barest of decency to have made the increase applicable to the next Parliament. The subject will come up in the estimates and there will then be a serious testing time both for Mr. King and Mr. Crerar.

A majority of the followers of both are ravening for the indemnity and will vote for it but if Messrs King and Crerar even if they can count beforehand on no single other supporter do not move and put the case for an amendment declaring that the increase must only come into effect after a

general election they will have deserved ill of their country and may for ever hold their peace about their zeal for popular rights. Mr. Crerar has already opposed the extra indemnity publicly but he must carry it further and remember that the opinion of the small group of members behind him is less to be considered than the views of the thousands of farmers and others for whom he is a political trustee. Mr. King has been studiously non-committal but his neutrality in this and other matters must end.

The public are tired of evasions and timid counsels of compromise. Both the opposition parties solemnly supported at the beginning of the session an amendment to the Address declaring that the present parliament of Canada was unrepresentative and had outlived its mandate. If they vote themselves more money to stay in the "unrepresentative Parliament" they will cut a sorry figure.

What adds to the outrageousness of the indemnity increase is that it follows straight on the heels of amazing disclosures which illustrate to the satisfaction of most people who keep an eye on political matters and economic developments that the government of Canada is completely in the hands of a crew of avaricious commercial interests who work their sweet will at Ottawa through their political minions in and out the Government and against whom neither the Cabinet nor Parliament have afforded the people of Canada the slightest protection during the past decade.

Mr. James Murdock, the author of these amazing and almost incredible revelations, is a man of high standing in the railway world and when he came on to the Board of Commerce the governmental scribes lauded his virtues and capacities to the skies. He labored hard to make the Board a success but it was the task of the legendary Sisyphus who spent all his life rolling a huge stone up hill only to see it trundle to the foot. First, Judge Robson, the Chairman, resigns under circumstances which, at least, were unusual and the Government declines to give any explanation. It was not in the public interest, said Ministers, but they should have learnt by this time that whatever concerns the public business is a public interest. In the matter of secrecy our Government can give points to the Foreign Offices of Europe.

Mr. Murdock now discloses the fact that Judge Robson resigned after the discovery on his desk of a letter from a Winnipeg lawyer, J. B. Hugg, asking the judge to revise and look over a legal document whose object was to limit the efficacy of the Board of Commerce. Judge Robson has issued some explanations of this letter; it was utterly unsought, he

said, and he would have scorned to look at the document.

Then Mr. W. F. O'Connor, another Commissioner, resigns and the Board is left helpless and truncated. No fresh chairman without whom the Board could not function properly is appointed and the Premier informs Mr. Murdock that they must await the decision of the Privy Council in London on the question of the legality of the Board's status.

In addition Mr. Murdock brings a long indictment, well marshalled under separate heads, against the Government. The main charge is that the Cabinet did not want the Board of Commerce to be a success, shielded their friends from its investigations, starved it of the necessary staff and thwarted it in every possible way. Mr. Murdock charges that Judge Robson was very careful of the interests of friendly corporations and names Mr. Calder as a Minister who was privy to his activities. It is probably the most serious charge which has been brought against a Canadian Government since the famous Pacific scandal.

He also launched a series of devastating blasts in his parting statement whose effect no explanations will ever wash away. He was, he said, convinced that the majority of the Cabinet were not and never had been in sympathy with the Fair Prices and Combines Act. Unfair and excessive profits had been made by textile manufacturers and combines had introduced systems of merchandizing which are injurious to the consumer and so on. Said Mr. Murdock, "I am going back to a job where I do not need to fight

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the boss. I prefer to fight for the boss. I do not care to remain a party to this practical joke at the expense of the public." Strong words are these and an explanation is eagerly awaited. It seems almost incredible that no member of the House has moved an adjournment to discuss this matter of urgent public importance and the fact argues an unfortunate timidity on the part of the leaders of both wings of the Opposition. They should have jumped at the chance and driven an assault home before the Cabinet had time to prepare a defence.

But there is one thing more important than damning the House of Commons and that is exposing it. A regular and systematic shewing up of the humbug and hypocrisy of the whole business is needed. If we could only elect a group of a dozen fearless fighting independents who would form no definite party but would devote themselves day after day to the task of exposing the hopelessness and venality of our present politics, the people might wake up to find how they had been fooled by rules in whom they trusted. They might decide to rule themselves and in future they might do it. All over this country men and women who take a serious interest in public affairs are now asking themselves "Does this political machinery ever do anything. Can it do anything? We preach and criticise and agitate and we make crosses and certain gentle men who are supposed to carry out our desires go into lobbies but is any really useful reform or progressive step likely to emanate from the process." Despite the awful sacrifices of the gri myears of war, despite the lessons taught by such books as Philip Gibbs and Henri Barbusse have written, the old game of make-believe and roguery goes on at Ottawa and Mammon is still enthroned.

The late Cecil Chesterton was a bitter critic of the British party system and its fruits and once he wrote these verses about it.

"From frantic hope that puts its trust

In pledges broke one hundred fold  
Eyes that are blinded by the dust

Eyes that are dazzled by the gold  
God of the poor, defend us yet

Lest we forget, lest we forget.

"Lest drunk with sound of strife  
we fail

The only real strife to see

Dreaming that aught can now avail  
Save Justice in her Armoury.

From lying tongues and hope deferred

Deliver thou, thy people, Lord."

With what burning words poor Cecil Chesterton have scorched the doings of our governors but he was spared the pain of ever seeing them in action.

J. A. Stevenson.

"It is the glory of brotherly love that it cannot be overworked. Brotherly love will stretch, if human beings will pull."

—Norman Gale.

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HIDES are high because they are scarce.

HIDES are scarce because butchers are killing less cattle.

BUTCHERS are killing less cattle because there is less demand for meat.

THERE is less demand for meat because meat is high.

MEAT is high because cattle are scarce.

CATTLE are scarce because the demand is so heavy.

THE DEMAND for cattle is heavy because hides are high.

HIDES are high because leather is high.

LEATHER is high because shoes are high.

Very simple, isn't it?

—Common Sense.

:o:

### ABOLISHING SATURDAY WORK IN AUSTRALIA

Many Unions Have Already Refused  
To Work on Saturday Morning

A great number of the unions throughout Australia are not making a definite stand regarding the institution of the 44-hour week, by the abolition of the Saturday morning work. Employers, incensed at the action of the men, are making an endeavor to stop the new move and are threatening to move in the arbitration courts to have the industrial wage agreements cancelled on the grounds that by refusing to work on Saturday morning, the men are really on strike.

This is not having any effect on the workers, who are simply taking the Saturday morning off work and saying no more about it. At the time of writing, quite a number of unions have already refused to work on any more Saturday morning shifts, while dozens of other unions are taking ballots of their members to decide the matter.

The Labor Council of New South Wales is calling a meeting of all union representatives to make the move a national one, recognizing that if this is done, the employers will not be able to penalize any one union in the matter. Labor Councils in other states may be depended to take similar action in the very near future. The new movement is at present confined to the states of New South Wales, Queensland and Victoria, though it can be expected to spread almost immediately to the other states in Australia.

### LIFE'S ESSENTIALS

The grand essentials of life are something to do, something to love and something to hope for.—Thomas Chalmers.



## The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada

Its Only Aim Is The Welfare of The Masses.

The people of a nation cannot advance beyond the men who make its laws, and the Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada exists to see to it that the workers by hand and brain are directly represented in the law-making bodies of the Dominion; to find, train and elect the right men of our own class in order to secure the kind of legislation that will protect and advance the interests of the workers.

It will wage warfare on plutocracy, despotism, economic privileges, and upon all the evil forces which burden the people and rob them of that happiness of living which is their fundamental right.

It is a non-partisan educational and political association, and because of the manner in which it is organized can never become the instrument or plaything of a small group of any class, particularly of wealthy men. The aim is the attainment of true democracy.

### WE PLEDGE OURSELVES:—

To support all municipal, provincial and federal educational plans where the evident purpose is to raise the standard of education in enlightened and progressive ways; to present truthfully and fearlessly through the medium of Fifth Sunday Meetings and our own press, the "Canadian Railroader", the latest and most important political, social and industrial developments;

To advocate the abolition of property qualifications for the franchise or for election to public office; the adoption of the Initiative, Referendum and Recall, and of proportional representation in all forms of public government; universal suffrage for both sexes, on the basis of one person, one vote; the transfer of taxes from improvements, and all products of labor, to land values, incomes and inheritances;

To advocate prison reform, including introduction of the honor and segregation systems, and abolition of contract labor; the enactment and rigid enforcement of child labor laws; pensions for mothers with dependent children; regulation of immigration to prevent lowering of industrial, political or social standards; development of the postal savings and parcel post systems; financial and other assistance to farmers through co-operative banks and by other means; government development of co-operative producing and trading associations for the benefit of the consumer;

To advocate extension of workmen's housing schemes and the labor bureau system; provision of technical education for every willing worker, according to his capacities; more effective inspection of buildings, factories, workshops and mines; minimum wages; a rest period of not less than a day and a half per week for every worker; government insurance of workers against sickness, injury and death; maternity benefits and old-age pensions; better Workmen's Compensation Acts; representation of the workers on all public boards and on boards for the supervision of private enterprises; union labor conditions in all government work; adequate pensions and opportunities for soldiers and their dependents;

To advocate freedom of speech and of the press, and a law compelling all newspapers and periodicals to publish in all issues a complete list of shareholders and bondholders.

"The Fifth Sunday Meeting Association of Canada" is financed entirely by its members who contribute \$2 a year in membership fees. If a local has been established in your city \$1 remains in the local treasury and the other dollar is sent by the local organization to our Dominion Headquarters, 60 Dandurand Building, Montreal, Que. In case no local has been established in your community, send the membership fee of \$2 directly to Dominion Headquarters.

The funds accumulating in the Dominion Headquarters are used for political and educational propaganda; the development of the organization; the preparation of pamphlets and leaflets and the financing of the various political campaigns where favorable opportunities develop, to elect our candidates. The treasurer is under bond and the books are audited by a firm of accountants.

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### LABOR BREVITIES

Hamilton is said to have the highest-paid bricklayers in Ontario as a result of the award of the board of conciliation allowing them \$1.02 1-2 an hour. The men demanded \$1.25, and came down to \$1.15, and the employers offered \$1.00. The bricklayers have accepted the award, but are not satisfied.

By 1,380 votes to 816 the National Union of Journalists has decided to affiliate to the Trades Union Congress in Great Britain.

The board of conciliation appoint-

ed at the request of the Peterboro city council to investigate the labor dispute between the Canadian General Electric Company and its machinists and electrical workers recommends that first-class machinists be paid not less than 75 cents, second class 70 cents, specialists not less than 60 cents, all class specialists 60 cents and helpers 50 cents an hour. Four hundred men have been on strike six weeks.

Iron moulders at Halifax and Dartmouth are on strike demanding 75 cents an hour and eight-hour day. At present they receive 65 cents an hour and a nine hour day.



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## James Murdock, Board of Commerce Commissioner, Says Cabinet And Board Chairman Hindered Work

Vice-President of Brotherhood of Railroad Trainmen, Labor's Representative on Board, Hits Out Boldly.

Ottawa, June 24. — James Murdock, Labor's Commissioner on the Board of Commerce of Canada, tendered his resignation to the Prime Minister tonight. This leaves the board without a commissioner, and may mean that the board will have to be abandoned, Judge H. A. Robinson and W. F. O'Connor, K.C., having both left the board to take up other work.

In his letter to the Premier, Mr. Murdock makes serious charges against Judge Robson, who was chairman of the board until last April, and a letter to Judge Robson from J. B. Hugg, counsel for the Crescent Creamery Company, concerning the investigation of that firm's operation by the board, is quoted.

Expressing disappointment that the board has not been permitted to carry out the public service which it was appointed to perform, Mr. Murdock says:

"I am convinced that the majority of the Cabinet of which you are the honored leader, are not and have never been in sympathy with the provisions and intent of the Board of Commerce Act and the Combines and Fair Prices Act."

In conclusion he says:

"In connection with your suggestion that I continue as a commissioner of the Board of Commerce until the decision of the Privy Council, I feel that the people need and are entitled to some results now. The light should be let in. I believe that your Cabinet will devise some means to prevent the Board of Commerce from functioning, even should the Privy Council give a favorable decision (on the constitutionality of the legislation.) My conscience will not permit me to become a high-salaried time-server.

"With the great personal respect for you, I apologize for handing a copy of this to the press at the same time it is sent to you. I do so as the result of experience, and to make sure that the public will know the facts."

Letter to Premier.

Mr. Murdock's letter to the Prime Minister is dated today and reads as follows:

"Supplementing my letters of June 17 and 18, and our brief discussions of Board of Commerce questions on June 17, 21 and 23, I hereby resign my position as a member of the Board of Commerce of Canada, to take effect this date.

"My understanding of your position, as gathered from conferences with you and from the fact that no appointments have been made, is that it is not the intention to complete the personnel of the Board by appointment at this time nor until the Privy Council has passed upon the status of the act under which the board works. This would appear to me inconsiderate of the rights of the consumers of Canada. There is much work to be done that the board can do with the assistance of a properly-chosen and sufficient staff, and with the sympathetic co-operation of the Government, which the board has not heretofore had. If the board is not to be permitted to do the many things waiting to be done in preventing profiteering and regulating combines against the public interest, it would, as stated in my letters of June 17 and 18, appear to be improper that I should merely draw salary. We have been handicapped for months without a chairman and a proper staff, and I am not going to be a party to making a joke of the law with one commissioner alone on the board without quorum authority. The people of Canada expect service for salary, even although your Cabinet do not.

"The reasons for my resignation given in this form (which I appreciate, as you and others will, is unusual, in fact, possibly unheard of) can be summed up as briefly as possible, and yet at considerable length, as follows:

### Reasons for Resigning.

"I am convinced:

"First—That the majority of the Cabinet, of which you are the honored leader, are not and have never been in sympathy with the provisions and intent of the Board of Commerce Act, and of the Combines and Fair Prices Act;

"Second—That your advisers only recommended to Parliament the passage of those acts as the result of



temporary alarm, incident to the Winnipeg strike and other strenuous demonstrations when the people demanded some means of controlling profiteers;

"Third—That as soon as the Board of Commerce Act and the Combines and Fair Prices Act were made law by the Parliament of Canada, honorable gentlemen prominent in the councils of Canada and members of your Cabinet at once began to undertake to minimize to as great an extent as possible what they believed to be the unnecessary and unfair provisions of these two acts when applied to the businesses of those for whom these honorable gentlemen no doubt had first regard;

"Fourth—That the chairman appointed by our government to the Board of Commerce was regarded by certain interests as being safe and sane in conserving to Canadian manufacturers and others large financial and big interests the generally unrestricted leeway heretofore enjoyed by such interests in the taking of profits, determined alone by the so-called market price and governed by supply and demand, and

that he was in full sympathy with 'high prices and against low prices', as he stated in his letter to Sir George Foster of February 23;

"Fifth—That during the one hundred and forty-five days that I was associated with the chairman as member of this board, he spent more time in Winnipeg, or en route, to or returning from Winnipeg, in looking after his private affairs than he did in looking after Board of Commerce matters, and that even during the few days, December 8 to 12, which the entire Board spent in Winnipeg, he was engaged in his private affairs, while the remainder of the Board held hearings of the court alone;

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**Mr. Hugg's "Impertinence"**

"Sixth—That when Mr. J. B. Hugg, representing the Crescent Creamery Company, Ltd., Winnipeg, felt that he could write, under date of February 18, 1920, to the then chairman of this board a letter submitting a copy of the Crescent Creamery Company's factum for use before the Supreme Court of Canada in opposition to the case that had been presented by the Board of Commerce to define its status, saying:

"Hon. H. A. Robson, K.C.,  
"Victoria Chambers,  
"Ottawa.

"Dear Judge:

"Re Crescent Creamery Company, Limited.

"I enclose a copy of my factum. This has been revised by Mr. Isaac Campbell. I have sent three copies to Mr. Greene, one for the use of the printer, one to be shown to Geoffrion and the other to be shown to Tilley. I have asked Greene to endeavor to see them where they are in Ottawa, or to communicate with them, and if it is possible to have such revisions as they suggest made in the proof when he receives it. I have also told Greene that I have sent a copy to Mr. Osborne, a friend of mine, and that I have asked Mr. Osborne to make any revisions he thinks fit and to immediately communicate them to Mr. Greene for insertion in the proof. My idea is that you, if you have time, will make such revisions as you think fit, if you can graft revisions on to what I have done, and then you will hand your revised copy to Osborne to hand to Greene, so that you will not appear to have any connection with the revised proof. Perhaps this procedure is unnecessarily roundabout, and if so you can of course, give your revisions to Greene direct.

A state of affairs was disclosed which destroyed whatever usefulness the chairman might up to that moment have had;

"Seventh—That the chairman's two explanations of the transaction, first that it was to be explained by the fact that Mr. Hugg had formerly been in his office, and that they were therefore on very close relations which each other, and secondly, that it was 'an unwarranted impertinence' by Mr. Hugg, were not

sufficient to re-instate him so far as usefulness was concerned;

"Eight—That when the former chairman, on February 23rd, wrote his resignation as a member of the Board of Commerce, promptly after he discovered that I had seen the letter written to him by J. B. Hugg, representing the Crescent Creamery Company of Winnipeg, he then knew that he would be regarded as disloyal to the Board of Commerce and to the consumers of Canada;

"Ninth—That the people of Canada should have had this and other information contained in the documents sent to the Right Hon. Sir George Foster on March 3rd last.

"Tenth—That during the entire term of service in which he and I were together connected with the board (in which time it had been impossible to ever get any reasonable co-operative understandings of attention in the matters before the board), nothing was done which could in any way affect the business and financial interests which in his judgment, should be protected from encroachments upon or interference by the Board of Commerce in Canada;

"Eleventh—That the general viewpoints and desires of the former chairman were well known by various honorable members connected with your Cabinet, and especially by the Hon. Mr. Calder;

**Preparing for Demise**

"Twelfth—That many of the honorable gentlemen composing your Cabinet saw in the former chairman's resignation an opportunity almost beyond their expectations to minimize the activities of the Board of Commerce and to prepare for its demise, and that several of them repeatedly undertook to thwart the board's desired activities by quiet and hidden restrictive opposition since that time;

"Thirteenth—That the Civil Service Commission has in the past few months, in its relations to the Board of Commerce, been acting under suggestion, as nothing else can possibly explain the series of handicaps, delays, perversions and misrepresentations that the Board of Commerce has been confronted with in trying to secure the assistance it requires;

Fourteenth—That on the 28th day of January, 1920, when this board issued a declaration challenging the

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right of the Cabinet to interfere on the behalf of the textile manufacturers in the Canadian Manufacturers' Association (they having made representations to the Government that it would cost \$1,500,000 to prepare the data asked for by a questionnaire of this board, and that it would take weeks to so prepare) certain of your hon. colleagues were prepared to concede the claim made by the textile manufacturers and relieve them from the necessity of complying with this board's request for information, and that only the public challenge to your Cabinet placed in the newspapers by the Board of Commerce prevented the textile firms from being relieved of the requests for data made by this board;

"Fifteenth—That later records show that the textile manufacturers had ample reason to struggle desperately to prevent the true fact from being known to this board, and

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that if this board could have secured the assistance desired, a statement of the facts and figures disclosed, followed by an order as the result of the analysis of the statement of affairs sent to this board, would have startled and incensed the Canadian public beyond anything that has developed in recent months. This information is still due to the

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Canadian people when your Cabinet renders the ordinary and reasonable assistance necessary to present it.

Sixteenth—That reasonable Government co-operation would have been made before now, and would even now make the Board of Commerce splendidly successful in controlling the only too prevalent practices of profiteering, and in wringing the water and unfair competition methods out of various combines in Canada.

#### Board is Necessary

"From what I have seen since coming to the board, I am more than ever convinced of the necessity of such a body as the Board of Commerce. But it is absurd to hope for any effective action by a body which is denied technical assistance. In the United States there is a federal trade commission doing work of the greatest importance. Without its staff of about five hundred, its usefulness would disappear. The Board of Commerce needs no staff of five hundred but it does need a reasonable staff that it can depend is not sent to it by the interests the board proposes to investigate.

"A Board of Commerce is necessary, in my judgment, for the following reasons:

"(a) Business men living together under the protection of the tariff have got to know each other so well that price-fixing agreements, and all sorts of agreements and arrangements are the rule rather than the exception. The board has already on five evidence in some scores of cases of such agreements. Not all of these are reasonable or proper. It should not be left to the unfettered will of the businesses interested to fix prices on necessities of life. A Board of Commerce is needed here,

"(b) Combines which have fastened themselves on the production and

distribution of certain essential articles of food, such as canned fruits, have introduced systems of merchandising which are injurious to trade and the consumer, and prevent fair competition. A body is required with power to supervise such concerns and prohibit unfair practices.

"(c) The Board has discovered that unfair and excessive profits are being taken by certain textile manufacturers, cement companies and other large concerns. It is in the public interest that these investigations thus begun be not stopped at this point, but be continued by a properly qualified Board of Commerce.

#### Speculation in Necessities

"(d) There is reason to believe that sugar is not the only commodity in which speculation to the detriment of the public has taken place. With a proper staff, a Board of Commerce can undertake to check or largely reduce speculation in necessities of life.

"(e) Without a Board of Commerce, the public has no organization to watch and protect its interests; while on the other side, there is the most complete organization and cross-organization; manufacturers' associations, wholesalers' associations, retailers' associations, packers' associations and hundreds of other associations. The public, unorganized as the sands by the sea, requires protection against the super-organization of modern business.

"In connection with your suggestion that I continue as a commissioner of the Board of Commerce until the decision of the Privy Council, feel that the people need and are entitled to some results now. The light should be let in. I believe your Cabinet will devise some means to pre-

vent the Board of Commerce from functioning, even should the Privy Council give a favorable decision. My conscience will not permit me to become a high-salaried time-server.

"With the greatest personal respect for you, I apologize for handing a copy of this to the presse at the same time it is sent to you. I do so as the result of experience, and to ensure that the public shall know the facts.

"Will you permit me to add that in my judgment the present position of the Board of Commerce is the result of your unfortunate illness and necessary absence from Canada almost ever since the Board was formed. The Board during your absence fell under unfortunate influence. Its history would have been quite different if you had been here to care, as you personally have always cared, for its success."

Here followed the signature of the commissioner.

#### Back to Cleveland

"I am going back to my office in Cleveland, Ohio, said James Murdock, before leaving Ottawa tonight, "I am still vice-president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen of America. I resigned from that post when labor appointed me its representative on the Board of Commerce. Mr. Lodge preferred to give me indefinite leave of absence in case I did not like this job. Well, I don't like it. I'm going back to a job where I shall not need to fight the boss. I prefer to fight for the boss.

"As labor representative, I insist that direct action is what the people want, and direct action is the thing we could not get. Today we sought to make the board's order re-

specting unfair profits taken by a Toronto shoe firm an order of the Superior Court of Ontario, in order to get action through that court against the firm. But the act provides that such notice to the provincial court must be signed by the chief commissioner. There is no chief commissioner, three months after the resignation of the last incumbent of that post. In this case since the Government has failed to appoint a chief commissioner, that board has been unable to institute definite action against combine, because the act distinctly provides that only the chief commissioner can fix the time and place of the investigation and otherwise conduct the preliminary action.

"I don't care to remain a party to this practical joke at the expense of the public."

#### Judge Robson Answers Charges

Winnipeg, June 26. — Judge Robson reiterated his denial of Mr. Murdock's charges in a public statement today and declared that he had absolutely no connection with any big business. He refutes the declaration that he was one-sided in his judgments, and defends his handling of the business brought before the Board of Commerce. His object, he says, was not to set prices that would ruin business, but to set prices that would be fair to the consumer and trader alike. Judge Robson claims that Mr. Murdock's charges were inspired by personal malice. Judge Robson's statement follows:

"Were it not that there is such gross perversion of facts in Mr. Murdock's letter to the Premier, I would utterly ignore his statement.

"The first three of his grounds do not concern me, but they are at var-

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iance with any knowledge I have of the facts.

"In the fourth ground he says that I was 'in full sympathy with high prices and against low prices, and that I so stated in my letter of 23rd of February to Sir George Foster. Look at this instance of Mr. Murdock's treatment of the facts. What I really said was this: 'The economic policy of the country should be towards high prices and against low prices. Numerous Governmental agencies, at the expense of the people of Canada, are doing their best to get the highest world prices for Canadian produce. In view of this, any machinery to reduce the prices of this product is simply abortive.'

"Obviously I was dealing with Canadian producers, farmers and growers of all kinds, raisers of live stock. I was not dealing with manufacturers. The suggestion that I was linked up in some way with the manufacturing business is new to me. I have never been able to see any evidence of it.

"As to ground five, in which complaint is made of my absence from Ottawa, why this ground was for his resignation I know not. I simply say that, owing to uncertainties of jurisdiction and economic policy, I hesitated about moving to Ottawa. I informed the Government thereof, so that they could act as they chose with me in the matter. No business ever suffered — Mr. O'Connor was qualified as chief commissioner in my absence—in fact, I was engaged

in board business in Winnipeg on almost every trip here. This ground shows what sort of spirit was growing up in the board.

#### Mr. Huggs' Letter

"Ground six sets forth an incident which shows that spirit in another form. This relates to Mr. Hugg's letter containing the factum of the Crescent Creamery Company in a case regarding jurisdiction. The letter of Mr. Hugg to me was lying exposed on my desk. I had not seen it. How it got there I do not know, except that I was told that a clerk opened it and so placed it. Mr. Murdock in my absence examined my desk, found the letter, abstracted a copy, and has freely published it. The circumstance is being deliberately distorted for the purpose of doing me harm. Such use of the incident is in itself evidence of malice. The facts are that Mr. Hugg, as solicitor for the Crescent Creamery Company, had asked me if the board would grant a re-hearing. I said I thought it was hopeless; that he could only take proceedings set out in our acts, and, outside of technical objections, the constitutional question was the only one. We discussed that question as lawyers do. I at no time invited or suggested that a draft of the factum be submitted to me. Mr. Hugg has been a student in my office. We are producers of legal works which take us incidentally into the constitutional field. To see the factum as a matter of legal interests is different to revising it.

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Observe the 'if you see fit' in Mr. Hugg's letter. Well, I never would 'see fit'. On the contrary, by some kind fortune and entirely without suspicion of its ultimate usefulness, I had warned A. W. Greene, Ottawa, solicitor for the company, that the factum was not to be shown to me. His version of the conversation is recorded in the following letter which I got at the time the incident was exploded on me:

"H. A. Robson, K.C., Ottawa,

"Dear Sir:

"In the course of the evening's conversation about ten days ago, I told you that I was about to receive the factum of the Crescent Creamery Company. You stated that the factum must not be shown to you. It was not my intention in any event to take that course, and your statement struck me at that time as being unnecessarily cautious."

#### Sin To Be Merchant

"The next subject, ground ten, is of such a general character that it is impossible to specifically deal with it. As I interpret this clause, it points to a phase of work which should receive some attention. Please observe running through the whole Murdock epistle the presumption that business and financial interests are all to be treated as under suspicion. In fact, at times in the board one would have thought it was a sin to be a merchant. For farmers to make big profits after years of privation and toil was certainly infamous. If refusing to co-operate in a

window-smashing campaign against all kinds of business and production was sin, I admit it. But I heartily and confidently deny lending the protection of the board to any offender, no matter how rich or highly placed. I knew very few people in big business. Even in my professional days, I was not favored with much of that class of practice. It may be I am being assailed for what was after all my reserved and undemonstrative manner. No one should forget that the functions of the board are judicial. The board cannot be its own prosecutor. From that fact considerable trouble arose. I tried to avoid confusing the two. Therein also doubtless was the cause of misinterpretation.

"There is a covert charge that I was in league with Cabinet Ministers for some sinister purpose, and Mr. Calder is named. That sort of thing is merely an evil dream. It is insubstantial, and cannot be dealt with, except to characterize it as an unfounded emanation from a suspicious mind.

"I have always said that there is a legitimate field for the board or some such tribunal. I may enter upon this subject again. In the meantime, as far as I am personally concerned, the above is all that is now called for."

#### Statement by Mr. Hugg

Declaring that the letter he sent to Judge Robson was neither invited nor expected, J. E. Hugg, K.C., today issued a statement regarding



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C., reads in part as follows:

"A letter of mine, with a factum enclosed, addressed to Judge Robson, has been made public. I of course have no personal knowledge of what happened to the letter after I mailed it. The letter was neither invited nor expected by Judge Robson, and was sent to him entirely on my own initiative and without his knowledge that I intended or proposed to send it."

Mr. Hugg adds that he had arrived at the conclusion that the Parliament of Canada has no jurisdiction in the matter of setting up a price-fixing tribunal.

The statement of J. B. Hugg, K.

the factum of the Crescent Creamery. Mr. Hugg states that he sent the letter to Judge Robson entirely on his own initiative and without Judge Robson's knowledge or consent.

Judge Robson will have nothing further to say in regard to the Murdoch letter at this time.

"The proper scene for the Board of Commerce discussion is Ottawa," said Judge Robson, in an interview with the Canadian Press, Ltd. "I will leave for Ottawa on Thursday morning—I cannot leave sooner. I am going there of my own volition, and have had no communication from anyone. Until then I will preserve silence."

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Make weary slaves of the children, give them no leisure to play,  
Doubtless they'd waste all the time that they had and it wouldn't help business to pay,  
All of this agitation is verily bosh and trash,  
The mothers don't count and the babies don't count—there's nothing that counts but cash.

What of the girl who struggles, what of the girl who falls?  
None of your business of course, we know; but somehow her fate appalls.

And the little wraith-like children, who toil in the roaring mills,  
None of OUR business, of course, you say—and ever the toiling kills.  
But one must have an income and wonderful gems of flash,  
The mothers don't count and the children don't count—there's nothing that counts but cash.

What of the crowded houses, what of the fetid slum?  
What of the reeking courts and sinks where the great white scourge will come?

What of the children born there, with never a chance that's fair,  
Who die or grow to a half-starved life in the poisoned tenement air?  
Oh, let us be calm and patient and let us do nothing rash,  
The mothers don't count and the babies don't count—there's nothing that counts but cash!

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